

HA-544

c. 1809-1833

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Havre de Grace, Md.

Begun in 1809 with funds provided by a lottery, St. John's is the oldest church in Havre de Grace. It is built of brick, laid in Flemish bond. Following fires in 1813 and 1832 which gutted the interior, an arched ceiling was put in which blocked off the upper story windows. The facade and flanks of the building appear to be similar to descriptions of their 1809-1833 appearance. The semi-circular, domed apse at the west end with a shed roof choir and vestry room on each side was added c. 1863. The slate roof and belfry date from around 1884.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Johns Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

114 N. Union Ave.

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Havre de Grace

VICINITY OF

6

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Johns Episcopal Church

Telephone #: 939-2107

STREET & NUMBER

114 N. Union Ave.

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Havre de Grace

VICINITY OF

Md. 21078

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

45 S. Main St.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Bel Air

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

HA 514

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE See 8

St. John's Episcopal Church is a one story, three bay by four bay, rectangular, brick church with a one story, domed apse, flanked by shed additions, at the rear. All the walls are laid in Flemish bond with the exception of the rear wall; it is common bond. On the south wall a grape vine joint is evident in the mortar between the bricks. Elsewhere on the structure, where different compositions and widths of mortar are evident, the brick work has been repointed. The building faces east on N. Union Avenue at the corner of Congress Avenue.

Window openings are arranged symmetrically on the facade. Two large round arched windows glazed with stencil patterned stained glass flank the central doors. A few feet above the doors is a row of three plaster-filled rectangular openings; above them is another plaster-filled opening in the shape of a small round arch. On the flanks of the structure the same series of rectangular, plaster filled openings, giving the appearance of a clerestory, are present above the round arched windows. The windows on the flanks are the same as those on the facade, having arched upper sashes, wooden muntins and stencil patterned stained glass. All windows have semicircular brick arches above them and stone sills, painted white. On the rear, above the altar is a large round arched stained glass window flanked by two smaller windows.

Entry to the church is through double doors in the center bay of the facade. The five paneled doors are held within a deeply recessed, round arched opening with paneled reveals and a louvered transom. The entrance has a granite sill and a semicircular brick arch above it.

Above the east front of the church is an open wooden belfry with a polychrome slate roof. The belfry, added c. 1884, has a slate base with a round arched mid-section in which the bell is located; above the bell is a pyramidal roof with semicircular bracketed pediments on each side.

The Church has a gable front, patterned slate roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters, painted white. On the north side of the church is a brick, Gothic Revival parish hall, erected in 1900 and given a "Colonial" face in the 1950's. Directly behind the main block is St. John's Towers, a seven story building, owned by the church, that provides apartments for senior citizens. St. John's Towers is on the site of the rectory built in 1839.

c. 1960

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

HA-544

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

1809-1833

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's is an early 19th-century brick church, the oldest in Havre de Grace. The building that preceded it, a small chapel, is believed to have stood on Stokes St., on the site of the present St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church. A lottery was begun in 1802 to finance the building of a church and market place and by 1809, construction of a church was begun on land given to the city by Robert Young Stokes. The Episcopal community, heretofore a part of St. George's Parish, Perryman, became a separate parish, although dependent for many years on the other church for pastors. The present church is an expanded version of the 1809 structure which was reputedly two thirds the size of the church of today and the upper windows openings, now blind, were open. During the burning of the town by the British in 1813, the building, although not razed, was completely wrecked on the interior. In the years between 1809 and 1831, when the building was completed, the church, without sufficient funds or a rector, was often closed. In 1832 another fire reduced the structure to its bare brick walls. During the subsequent repairs, an arched ceiling was added on the interior, blocking off the upper story of windows. Since the church had no glebe, the minister's salary was paid by pew rentals. The first pew auction was held July 15, 1833; the first pew going to Abraham Jarrett Thomas, a banker.

The facade and flanks of the building appear to be remarkably similar to descriptions of their 1809-1833 appearance. Most of the alterations to the church have occurred on the rear and interior. The semi-circular, domed apse at the west (sanctuary) end with a shed roof choir and vestry room on either side was added c. 1863. Shortly after that stained glass with a stenciled design was inserted into the window openings on the sides and front of the church.

Around 1884 the church received a slate roof and the belfry that crowns it today. St. John's Church has had many distinguished parishioners among them John O'Neill, Robert Rodgers, and Senator Millard E. Tydings.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Meigs, Cornelia, A History of St. John's Church, 1809-1959

Printed by the Democratic Ledger, Havre de Grace

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marion Morton, Architectural Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust

11/22/76

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN

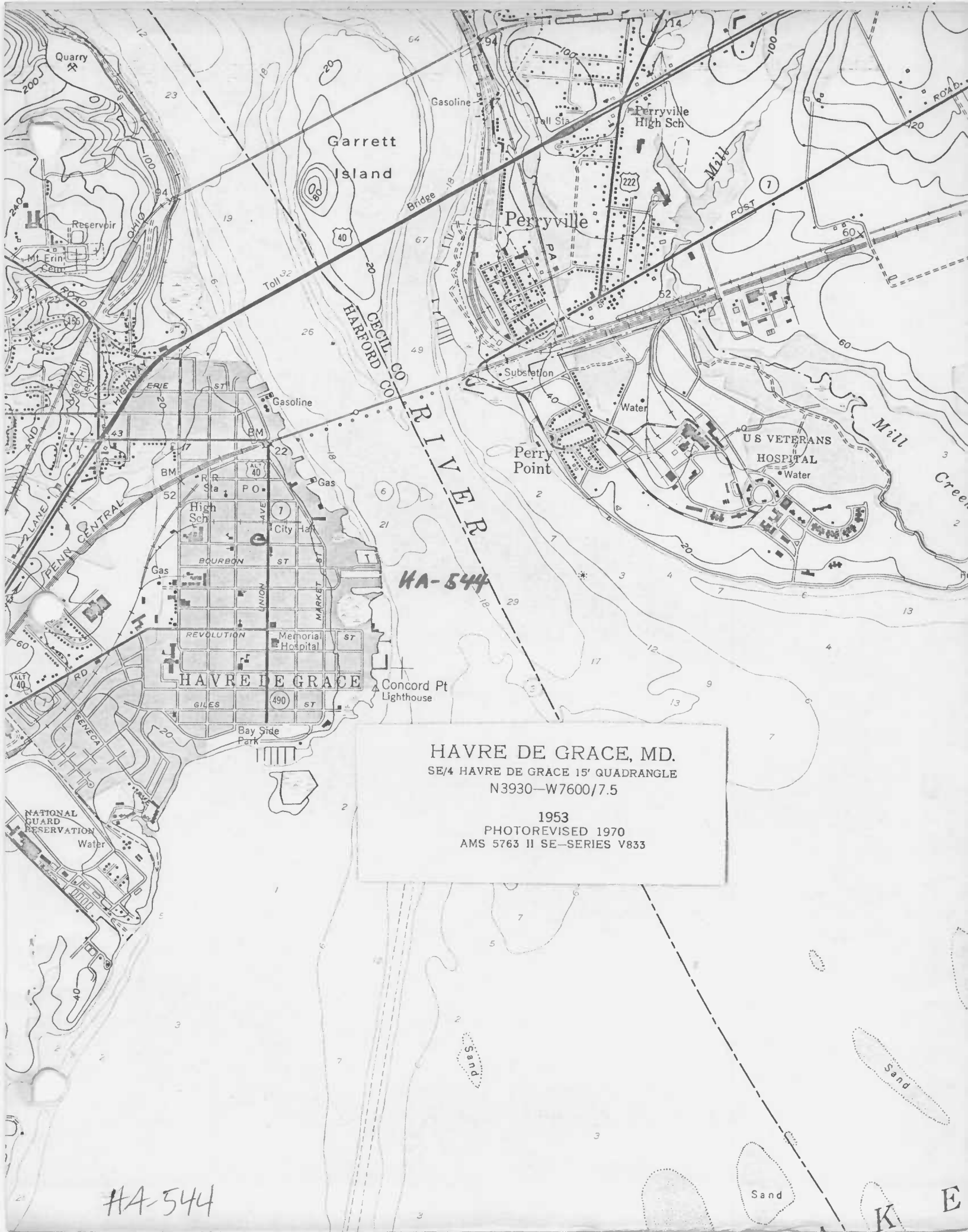
STATE

Annapolis, Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Garrett
Island

Perryville

Perryville
High Sch

Perry
Point

U S VETERANS
HOSPITAL

HAVRE DE GRACE

HAVRE DE GRACE, MD.

SE/4 HAVRE DE GRACE 15' QUADRANGLE

N3930-W7600/7.5

1953

PHOTOREVISED 1970

AMS 5763 II SE-SERIES V833

HA-544

K E



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St. Johns Church

114 N. Union Ave.

N.E. Elevation

Marion Norton 6/17/97.



HA-544

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

114 N. UNION AVE

HAVER DE GRACE NOV. 76

MARION MORTON N.E. ELEV.

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